THE BEGINNING AFTER THE END

STORY BY
TURTLEME

ART BY
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STORYBOARD ASSISTANT / PUTRI
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LINING ASSISTANT / SERA SWATI

EDITORS
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IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE MANA ROTATION TECHNIQUE SYLVIA TAUGHT ME, I WOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN ABLE TO KEEP UP.

YOU'RE A LIGHT RED CORE, RIGHT?

EVEN THOUGH I SLOWED DOWN A BIT, I'M IMPRESSED.

I THOUGHT WE WOULD'VE HAD TO STOP AND REST A FEW TIMES.

FWOOM

YOUR BOND HASN'T COME BACK.

IS SHE DOING OKAY?

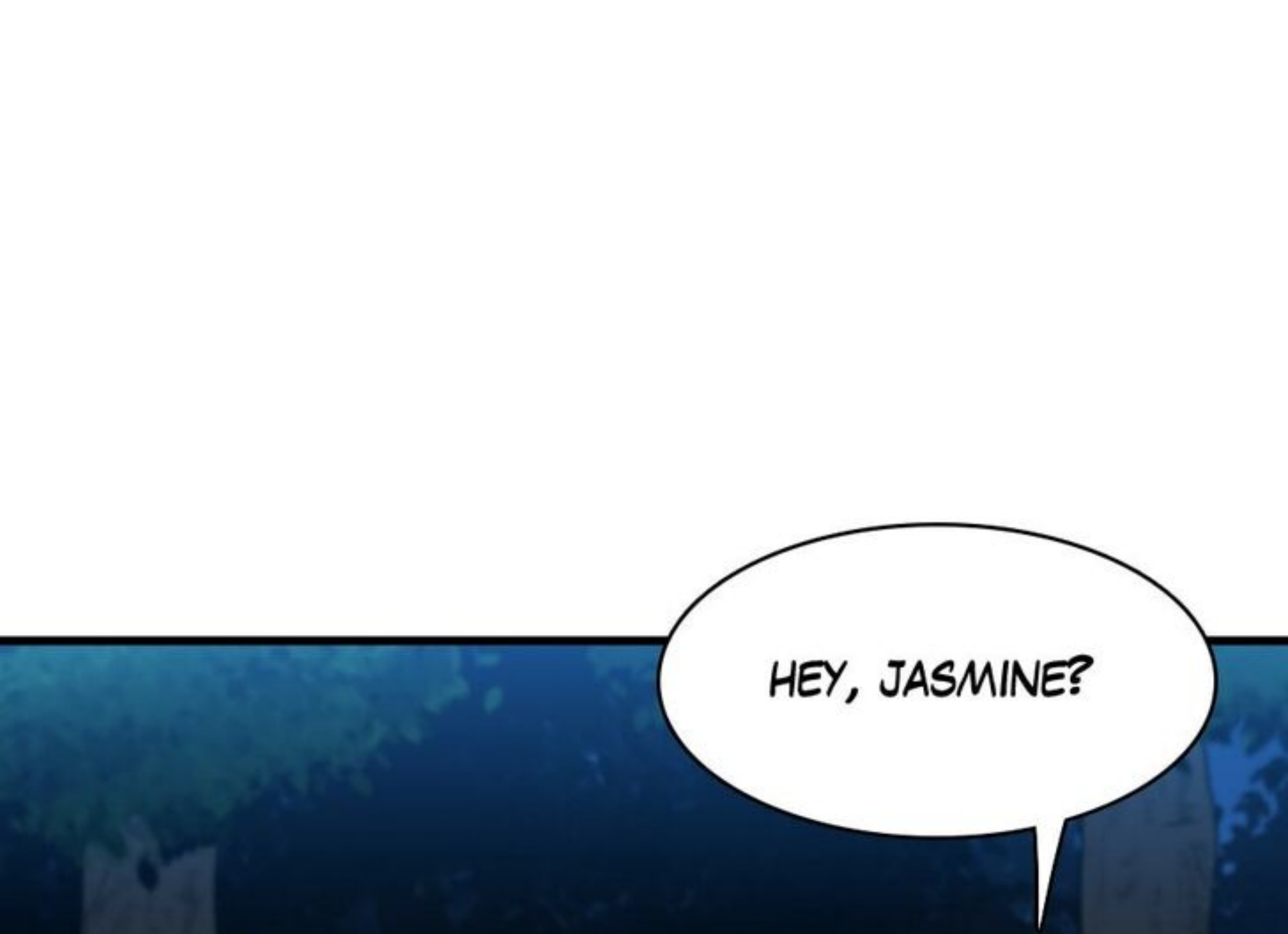
SYLVIE'S BEEN
SENDING ME UPDATES.

SHE'S PRETTY HAPPY
BEING OUT HERE.

I'D IMAGINE
IT WAS QUITE SUFFOCATING
BEING INDOORS MOST
OF THE TIME.

YEAH.
SHE'S DEFINITELY
ENJOYING HERSELF.

POOF


HEY, JASMINE?
EUM?

WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO BECOME AN ADVENTURER?

SHOOT.
DID I TOUCH
A SORE SPOT?

I...
WANTED TO GET AWAY FROM MY FAMILY.

SO I WAS RIGHT.

IT'S OKAY.

I KNOW YOU NOTICED BACK AT THE ADVENTURER'S GUILD.

THE FLAMESWORTH HOUSE
WAS A MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR TO THE
WAR AGAINST THE ELVES.

OUR HOUSE HAS PRODUCED MANY POWERFUL MAGES,

BOTH CONJURERS AND AUGMENTERS.

OUR LINEAGE IN THE FIRE-ATTRIBUTE ELEMENT IS SECOND TO NONE.

THEY TAKE GREAT PRIDE IN THIS,

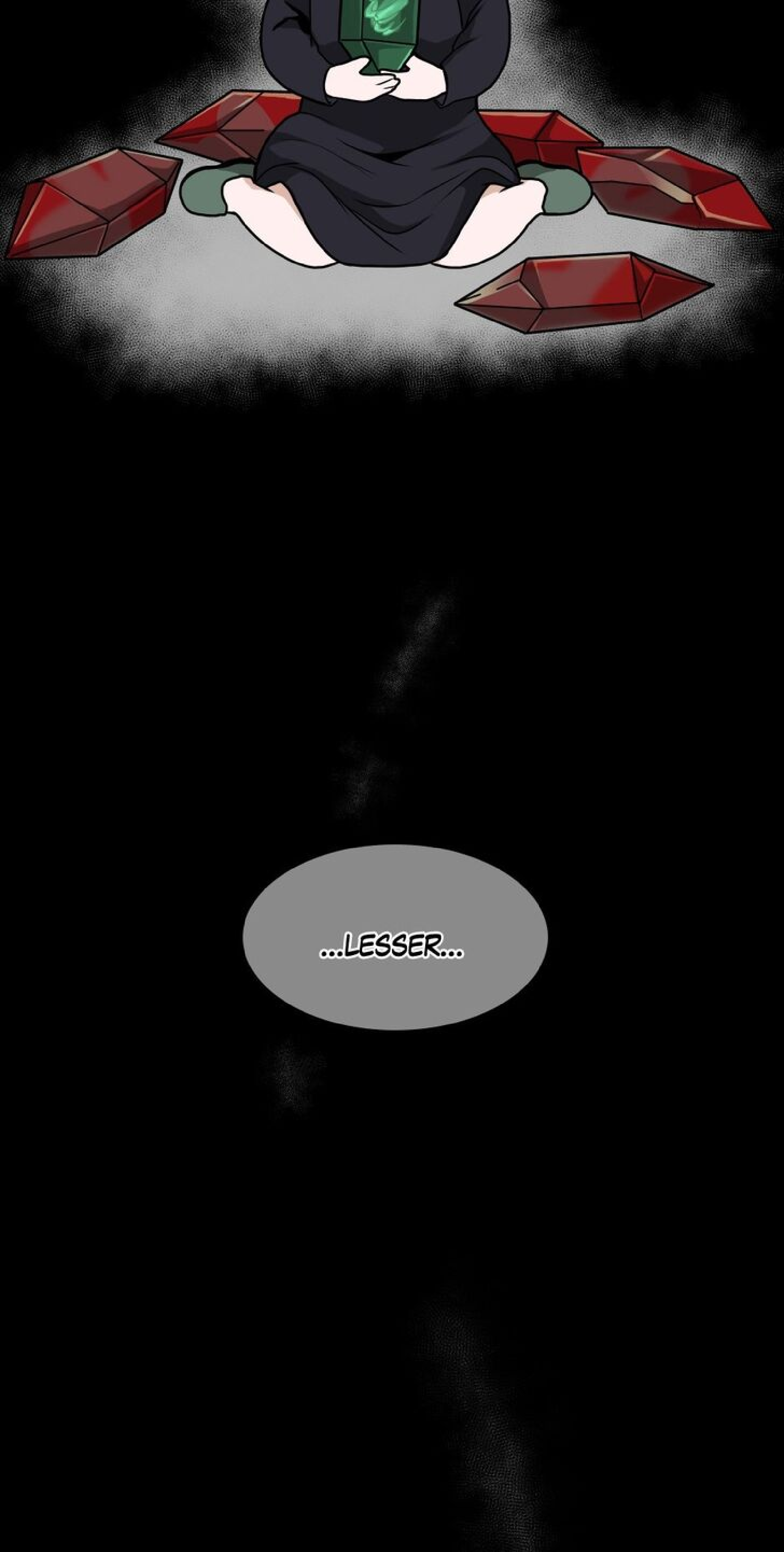
BECAUSE FIRE IS CONSIDERED THE MOST POWERFUL OF THE ELEMENTS.

SO WHEN I AWAKENED EARLIER THAN ALL OF MY SIBLINGS HAD,

MY PARENTS HAD HIGH EXPECTATIONS OF ME.

BUT WHEN ALL OF
THE TESTS I TOOK SHOWED THAT
I HAD NO APTITUDE FOR
THE FIRE ATTRIBUTE,

MY FAMILY REGARDED ME AS...


...LESSER...

TSK.

THAT'S STUPID!

I UNDERSTAND
THAT THERE ARE LEVELS
IN MANA CORE STRENGTH

BUT IT'S COMPLETELY ARIBITRARY--
NO, ABSURD---FOR MAGES TO

CREATE A HIERARCHY BASED ON ELEMENTAL AFFINITIES!

THERE'S NOT A SINGLE ELEMENTAL AFFINITY THAT'S INNATELY BETTER THAN THE OTHER.

IT ALL JUST DEPENDS ON HOW WELL THE MAGE UTILIZES IT!

PFFT!

KAHAHAHA!

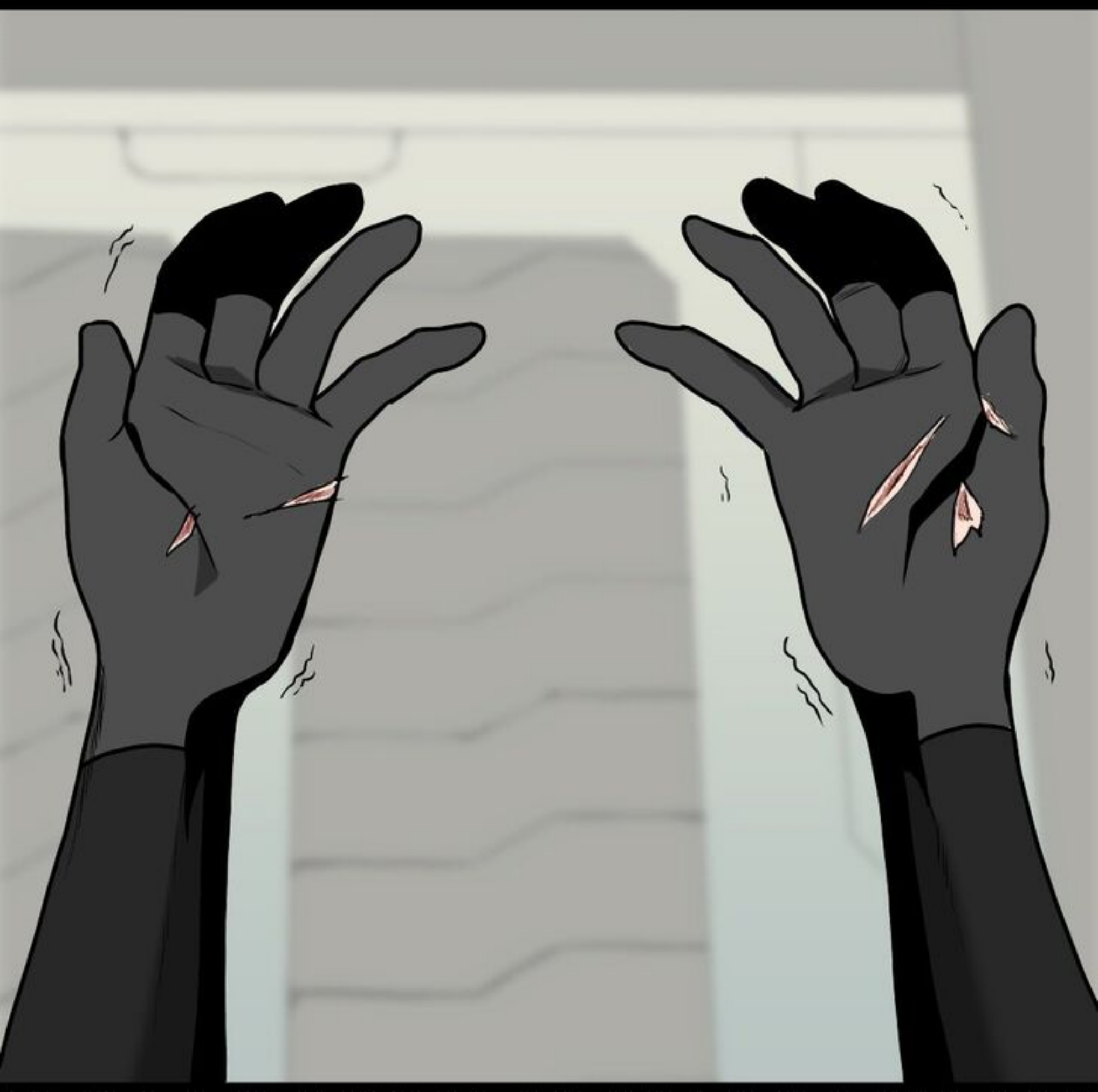
I'M SORRY...
IT'S JUST THAT YOU'RE
USUALLY SO COMPOSED.

I WAS SURPRISED
YOU GOT SO ANGRY
FROM THAT.

I MUST'VE
GOTTEN UPSET
FROM THINKING ABOUT
MY PAST LIFE.

THE BIGGEST DISADVANTAGE THAT I HAD BACK THEN...

WAS THAT MY KI POOL--
SIMILAR TO THIS WORLD'S
MANA CORE--WAS MUCH WEAKER
THAN AVERAGE.



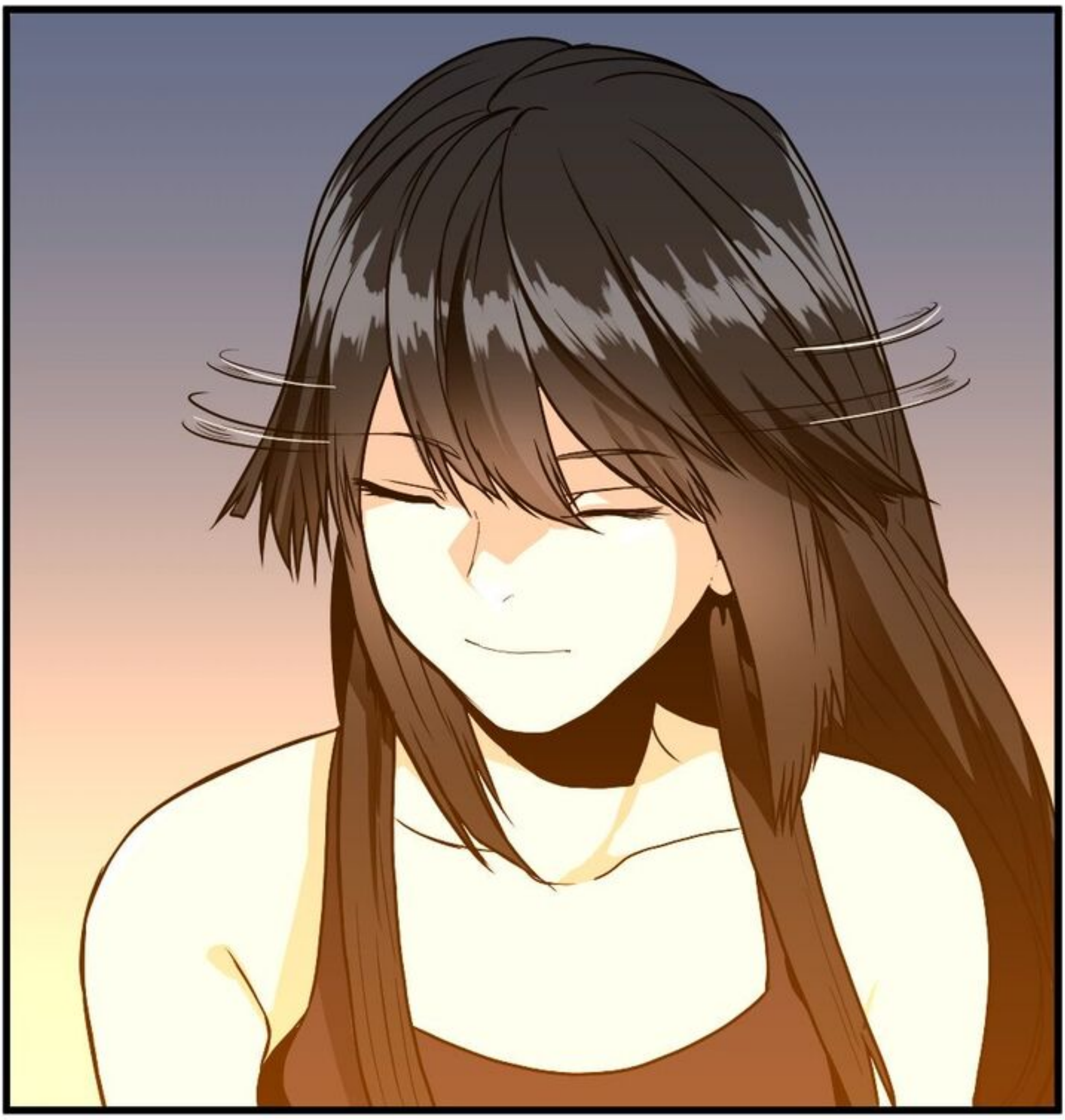
YET,
IN THIS WORLD...

WITH AN ELEMENTAL AFFINITY...

AND A DARK YELLOW CORE AT ONLY 24 YEARS OLD...

JASMINE WAS SHUNNED BY HER OWN FAMILY.

IT'S JUST UNFAIR...
THAT'S ALL.



WHETHER IT'S AUGMENTERS VERSUS CONJURERS OR ONE ELEMENT OVER THE OTHER,

I'VE LONG SINCE
ACCEPTED THE FACT THAT
PEOPLE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING
FOR WAYS TO FEEL SUPERIOR.

IT'S JUST
IN OUR NATURE.

BESIDES,

THE TWIN HORNS
HAVE TREATED ME
WELL.

EVEN WHILE LAUGHING AND SMILING, FOR THE FIRST TIME,

THE ALWAYS ALOOF AND COLD JASMINE SEEMED...

"VULNERABLE."

GRAB

HSOOOMS

LOOKING BACK,
I THINK I MIGHT'VE
PRESSURED YOU TO CHOOSE

ME AS YOUR GUARDIAN.

AND I'M NOT THE MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE OUT OF THE TWIN HORNS EITHER.

SO MAYBE WE SHOULD'VE
ASKED YOUR OPINION FIRST.

YOU'RE SURPRISINGLY SENSITIVE.

FWOOSH

IT'S NOT NICE TO
TEASE YOUR
ELDERS.

I'M HONESTLY GLAD YOU'RE THE ONE THAT VOLUNTEERED, JASMINE.

YOU'RE NOT
AFRAID TO TELL ME
WHEN I'M WRONG.

AND THAT'S SOMETHING I KNOW I'LL NEED.

ESPECIALLY SINCE
I TEND TO GO A BIT
OVERBOARD AT TIMES.

BUT WE SHOULD REALLY GET SOME SLEEP.

IT'S WEIRD.

WHEN I
TALK TO YOU,
IT DOESN'T FEEL
LIKE I'M TALKING
TO A CHILD.

HE MUST HAVE FALLEN ASLEEP.

FOLLOW CREATORS
ON INSTAGRAM
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